

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A bridging unit for use in bridging apparatus for traversing a bridging zone, the bridging unit including a stowage housing which in use is disposed to one side of the zone, a spanning assembly operatively mounted to the stowage housing for movement between a stowed position and a deployed position in which it at least partially traverses the bridging zone in an elevated position, and deployment means operable to cause movement of the spanning assembly between the stowed and deployed positions.
2. (Original) A bridging device according to claim 1 wherein said stowage housing includes a housing body having a compartment therein for at least partially receiving the spanning assembly therein when in the stowed position.
3. (Currently amended) A bridging device according to claim 1 ~~or claim 1~~ wherein said housing body includes a box-like structure having peripheral side walls and a top wall, said top wall forming a platform from which the spanning assembly is accessed when in the deployed position.
4. (Original) A bridging device according to claim 3 including access means for enabling access to the platform which forms part of the stowage housing, the access means being operatively mounted to the stowage housing for movement between a stowed position and a deployed position.
5. (Original) A bridging device according to any preceding claim wherein the spanning assembly includes a path section and a passage section which in the deployed position are disposed in end to end relation and in the stowed position are disposed side by side, the two sections being movable relative to one another between the stowed and deployed positions.
6. (Original) A bridging device according to claim 5 wherein when the passage and path sections of the spanning assembly are in the stowed position they are disposed generally side by side in a generally upright configuration within the compartment or stowage housing.

7. (Original) A bridging device according to claim 6 wherein said passage section and said path section are operatively connected together for relative pivotal and linear movement and said passage section is pivotally mounted to said housing the arrangement being such that said passage section is pivotally movable relative to the housing from the stowed to the deployed positions and thereafter said path section is both pivotally and linearly moved relative to the passage section so as to adopt its deployed position in which it is arranged generally end to end with respect to the passage section.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) Bridging apparatus including two bridging units according to claim 5 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, the stowage housing of each unit being disposed on respective opposite sides of the bridging zone, the arrangement being such that when the spanning assembly of each unit are the deployed position they are operatively connected to one another.